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PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1915.

there is a lower average of inhabitants in each house than in Philadelphia.

The Governor's ideal of a house for every family, and that well ventilated and with modern sanitary conveniences, is easier of realization than some pessimists would have us believe. When the prevailing conditions are so good, the insanitary, squalid tenement without water, without bathrooms and without light or air becomes conspicuous. The housing law was intended to bring about their complete removal. But selfish men are seeking to preserve them, to protect the dirty income of their owners. Are the decent people of the city and the State willing that they should succeed?

"How Will I Ever Explain It to Jim?"

OPEN boats were made at the previous session of the Legislature that rapid transit in Philadelphia would be held up until 1915. When Finance Committee of Councils pigeon-holed the Taylor ordinance for weeks, it was clearly apparent that the obstructionists were relying on dilatory tactics to accomplish their purpose.

Public sentiment forced them to a show-down and they sought to muddy the waters by captious objections to parts of the Taylor plan, while at the same time offering to popular Frankford and North and South Philadelphia a will-o'-the-wisp sort of transit, which, they anticipated, would serve to divide the transit forces and so permit months more of delay.

The original Connolly-Seger-Costello substitute ordinance was, presumably intentionally, faulty in two respects. First, the ordinance was to be stamped with probable illegality by specifically basing it on personal taxables. John G. Johnson exposed the trick in this so clearly, being supported by City Solicitor Ryan, that not even Mr. Connolly dared retain the objectionable words and an amendment to strike them out was permitted.

The second dilatory device was to make the loan ordinance provide for a program in part so utterly impracticable, namely, the extension to Rhawn street, that no public official with a conscience would accept it. It apparently was expected by the obstructionists that the situation would be saved for them through this subterfuge, even if the ordinance was permitted to be passed in legal form. So sure were they of this that the word was passed to vote for the amended measure. Rapid transit seemed to be tied up in a hard and fast knot which no human being could untie.

But the pullbacks were too sure of their ground. Mr. Taylor found that he could use the funds provided under the ordinance and yet not spend one cent for any plans but his own. The Frankford elevated obviously must be begun in town and gradually be built out. The funds will be exhausted long before Rhawn street is reached, and no other funds will be available until a new Councils speaks. That new Councils can specify what sections of the system the specific funds shall be used for. The elevated will be built with Rhawn street as the ultimate terminal, say, but Bridge street must be reached first. How long after that will it take to get to Rhawn street a Councils subsequently to be elected must say. So, too, just because the present Councils will not provide funds for the loop is no reason why a later Councils will not. The electors in November will decide that question. Meantime, available funds can be wisely and conservatively expended in digging on Broad street, where under any plan a subway is certain.

So, all that Councils has been able to do is to delay an indorsement of the Taylor plan as a whole, while providing funds for the accomplishment of part of that program, and a very important part of it.

Mr. Taylor, in other words, takes a broad-minded view and expresses by his action complete faith in the electorate, on which he throws the burden of his fight by calling on it to decide in November whether it is for the "fake" plan or the real plan.

The obstructionists have blundered into a blind pit from which they cannot extricate themselves without stultification and certain political repudiation. They have been checked by the skilful tactics of the Director, whose vision is of quick transit, quickly got, unwarped by selfish political ambition. He is not trained in playing the game, but these men compelled him to play it, and with what cards on the table he has turned the trick. They did not make quite so hideous a creature as they thought they had constructed. Instead of the impossible ordinance they imagined they had written, they are amazed to find that it can be used to good advantage.

There is a good deal of humor in the situation. The friends of transit can afford to laugh at the pullbacks. How readily the duckling takes to water! "How will I ever explain it to Jim?"

The inefficient always insist that the charge of inefficiency is unfair.

When a baby swallows a bichloride of mercury tablet some one is to blame for leaving it where a baby could get it.

Employing men on the Parkway, or some other important public work, is better than giving emergency aid in any other way.

For the stentch time the New York courts are to be asked to decide whether Thaw is any saner now than when he killed Stanford White.

The Standard Oil people seem to be as much interested in Doctor Rittman's economical process of distilling gasoline as any of the little producers.

Of all the fool things to be argued before the United States Supreme Court, whether the upper berth in a sleeping car should be made up before a passenger applies for it is about the fooliest.

Secretary McAdoo now says that there was never any intention to buy the intruder German ship. If the ship purchase bill had passed, had an inquest over the corpse of the bill be understood and unimportant unless the Administration plans to substitute it into life at the next session of Congress.

DR. R. JOHNSTON ON THE WAR

The Philadelphia Pastor Chides England for Lack of Appreciation of American Sentiment—"Display of Ill Temper" Regretted.

THE following letter was written by Doctor Johnston, rector of the Church of the Saviour, to the editor of the Edinburgh Scotsman, in which newspaper it was printed, together with an editorial reply. Doctor Johnston himself is openly an advocate of the Allies, and the Scotsman, of course, is anti-German. The correspondence and reply, therefore, both deal with the subject from the viewpoint of the Allies, and are presented here only because of their undoubted interest to the general public.

To the Editor of the Scotsman:

Sir—The local papers today tell us of two things. First, we are told that "Scotsmen has America" at a meeting addressed by Lord Rosebery in Edinburgh, and vary their blases with shouts of "victory." Secondly, we are told of a speech in Minneapolis, by Doctor Dernberg, ex-Secretary of State of the German Empire. In it he advocates a future combination between Germany and America with a view to terminating British domination of the seas.

I have received letters lately from Edinburgh, in which an impatient spirit and unwarranted criticism of America is evident. One good clerical friend writes: "Either the States must condemn Germany, and plainly say so, or condone her crimes." Where has such wholesale condemnation been heard more than in our midst? It is quite another matter to intervene with force of arms. Some of our finest citizens advocate an American entry into the war. Personally, I cannot see that this is justifiable, though I would rather fight than preach the Gospel at this hour. The responsibility of the President, involving the happiness and welfare of 100,000,000 of people, is too weighty to be determined by any outside authority or accumulation of devout sentiment. In reply to an invitation to a "neutrality" meeting, the Bishop of Pennsylvania wrote, and the letter appeared in the public press:

"As an American citizen, pledged to uphold American ideals, I am altogether against Germany and Austria in this war. On the grounds that they are threatening, and would destroy as far as they have opportunity, those political and personal liberties and rights which Americans have made the foundations of our Government. Feeling as I do, you will readily understand that I cannot have part in any meeting or movement which has for its real end, whether explicitly avowed, or in the support of a cause to which I personally and resolutely am opposed."

Attempts to Capture Public Opinion

The desperate efforts the Germans are making at the front to defeat the Allies is only equalled by their frantic efforts to capture public opinion in America. Nothing will aid them more than the idiotic display of ill-temper by such audiences as we are being told of.

The situation in America ought to be calmly considered. Here is a nation free from all entangling alliances, free from all fear of invasion and threatened by none. It finds itself the only great nation outside, as far as fear and self-interest are concerned, the possibility of war. An independent people, accustomed to determine its own path, it has never fought with Germany, and the history of this people records three great wars. In each of these wars England has been the enemy.

How is this possible? The answer is: The whole nation, with the exception of the German population, is with the Allies. Britain's cause is spoken of as "ours"; the "we" and the "us" of war conversation is eloquent of a wonderful sympathy. The press, the pulpit, the platform, the articles, the lofty conception of right is not excelled by the London press. In the clubs, on the street, in offices, in the street cars, the one spirit is shown. At the Union League Club of this incident a well-known citizen of mature years raised the song "Tipperary" in response to the orchestra. I suggested that it was an unneutral act, and the astonishing answer came back from the mill: "America! America!"

The conduct of it, I am sure, by American men, would be too, too, if he were neutral in heart. In every walk in life, judges, writers, clergymen, manufacturers, lawyers, native-born and foreign-born, all are united in their support of the Allies. The whole nation, with the exception of the German population, is with the Allies. Britain's cause is spoken of as "ours"; the "we" and the "us" of war conversation is eloquent of a wonderful sympathy. The press, the pulpit, the platform, the articles, the lofty conception of right is not excelled by the London press. In the clubs, on the street, in offices, in the street cars, the one spirit is shown. At the Union League Club of this incident a well-known citizen of mature years raised the song "Tipperary" in response to the orchestra. I suggested that it was an unneutral act, and the astonishing answer came back from the mill: "America! America!"

A Lying Commonplace

The cheap, sneering, lying commonplace about the dollar is a very old one. It is found on European lips; the flying of the American flag in August of almost any year in Princes street is not for love. It all becomes men so to speak. When the British are at the battle for the dollar as the American, the poverty and shame, and want, and hunger I have ministered amongst in Gorgie will be gone forever. But enough.

With regard to the President's note and Mr. Bryan's communications, British people ought to realize that they have to regard the rights of this nation. The shipping bill is not new; it is as evergreen as Home Rule. I believe that the first act of the first act of the first act of these States was a shipping bill. I listened in the Senate to Elihu Root's denunciation of an American official's note, which proved that the United States had no intention of allowing a stranger in America. I heard a noble citizen of New York say that he would not consider American commerce under any circumstances as against England's preservation. These sentiments are wise. The President's note is not given to take a personal view. He is the guardian of the future, and against a vicious precedent he has to set his face. When, under the present strain, Scotsmen cannot see this, we are not surprised. But it is well to eliminate the superior cry of "dollar." In the Civil War, England preferred the material advantage of her trade to the integrity of this Union. The fact that slavery was involved seemed then to have no effect on the morals of the contraband trade. These bitter memories are all dead. It has been given to an Edinburgh audience to revive them in the generous American heart.

Official American neutrality is difficult to maintain; it is the President's duty to maintain it. Americans must be allowed to trade. The evil suggestion of the moment, I refer to has joined hands with the German, who say that the hands of the Government here are red because they are trading with England in dum-dum bullets.

The neutrality of this nation is akin to the neutrality of the American who was once asked to be neutral. "I am neutral," he answered, "I don't care a damn who beats the Germans."

The Task of the President

Let it rest there. The task of the President is serious, especially when the aggressiveness and number of the German population is remembered.

Belgium was a fortunate excuse for going to war; I do not doubt the sincerity of the position taken; I do say, and openly say it here without reserve or shame, without Belgium's neutrality, England must have gone to war. Years of irritating insults, years of threatening menace were bound to result in this way. Such a constant admirer of Sir Edward Grey as the day of his first speech in his first campaign as a stripling with his beautiful wife he appeared on a border platform. Britain's position needs no defense, some Britons need a sea and others wisdom.

Let those who in these times of war have leisure to attend meetings, remember that an American President has duties as to an independent nation; its interests, its moral conscience, even at the risk of appearing as too neutral. The American's love of right and hatred of wrong, his detestation of the bully and the



rattle of the sword; his inextinguishable response to his inheritance of Anglo-Saxon ideas of liberty, requires no stimulus from any quarter, and his irritation at puerile blases is best left sleeping—I am, etc.

ROBERT JOHNSTON.
Rector of the Church of the Saviour, and formerly rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh.

German-Americans

The Scotsman comments editorially on Doctor Johnston's letter as follows:

A correspondent, who was formerly an Edinburgh clergyman, and who is now minister of an Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, makes complaint in a letter printed in another column of Scottish feeling regarding the United States. He alludes to an incident at Lord Rosebery's Edinburgh meeting a fortnight ago, which it is evident has been misrepresented and distorted by German propagandists in America. "We are told," he writes, "that Scotsmen have America, and vary their blases with shouts of 'victory.' The statement is false. Its origin is the inaccuracy of a reporter; its development is the work of a slanders. There are no blases when Lord Rosebery mentioned the United States. One foolish and irresponsible person cried 'the almighty dollar.' The audience turned upon him as a nuisance, and their impatient demand for silence was apparently unheeded. A careless reporter to be the expression of a hostile feeling against America. Our correspondent will, no doubt, take means to correct the false impression produced in the Philadelphia press by this incident. His commentary on Scottish feeling need not be discussed, as it is based upon an illusion. But it is interesting to learn from a private letter that one of the leading ministers in Philadelphia was describing the conduct of German-Americans in virtually the same terms as Lord Rosebery at a time which synchronizes with the Edinburgh meeting. 'The German population of the United States,' Lord Rosebery said, 'which is very large, is extremely anxious, so far as we can learn from the papers, to play the same part in the United States as Prussia plays in Germany—to be the mahout of the United States, to be the driver and to drive her into what would be a civil war with her ancestors and her friends—Great Britain.' 'As to this German propaganda,' writes the Philadelphia clergyman, 'I am getting more and more indignant and aroused. Many letters have come to me lately showing beyond a doubt that there is a network spread over this whole country secretly and silently, and that very great harm is being done, so much so, in fact, that I really believe our institutions are in danger.'

GREEK PRAYER FOR PEACE

It was not left for modern times to discover the blessings of peace. The Hebrew prophets had company when they prayed for it, and it is of a higher power. Prof. Alexander Naima of King's College, London, has cited in the London Times the following prayer he found in the Papyrus 913, of a Greek manuscript, and Greek writer of comedies (400-350 B. C.), and furnished the translation, which, somewhat free, gives admirably the flavor of the original:

O thou that makest wars to cease in all the world,
In accordance with thine ancient name we beseech thee,
Make war and tumult now to cease.
From the murmur and the subtlety of suspicion with which we vex one another.
Give us rest,
Make a new beginning,
And mingle again the kindred of the nations in the alchemy of love.
And with some finer essence of forbearance and forgiveness
Temper our mind.

FRIENDS

No man can expect to find a friend without fault; nor can he propose himself to be so to another. Without reciprocal kindness and temperance there can be no continuance of friendship. Every man will have something to do for his friend, and something to bear with in him. The sober man only can do the first; and for the latter, patience is requisite. It is better for a man to depend on himself than to be annoyed with either a madman or a fool—Owen Foll-tham.

THE WILSONIAN VERSION

To say "I am the State" is said, his of date. For your ruler autocratic. Heads the party Democratic. And declares, what's her befall. He is the "initiative. Referendum and recall; 'That's all."

—John P. Davis, M. D., in New York Sun.

WAITING

Serene, I fold my hands and wait.
Nor care for wind, or tide, or sea;
I have no more 'gainst time or fate,
For let my own shall come to me.

Asleep, awake, by night or day.
The friends I seek are seeking me;
No wind can drive my bark astray;
Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone?
I wait with joy for the coming years;
My heart shall leap where it has worn,
And garner up its fruit of tears.

The stars come nightly to the sky;
The tidal wave unto the sea;
Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high,
Can keep my own away from me.

—John Burroughs.

FREEDOM STILL LIVES

While one man speaks out against injustice.
While through man's chorus "Right!" clear
Rings his "Wrong!"
Freedom still lives.

—E. Reacht.

CONTRACTOR RULE IN TERRE HAUTE

Who Got the Taxpayers' Money, and How—Hundreds of People Lost Their Homes Because of Neroism in City Politics.

By IRWIN L. GORDON IV.

THE Roberts-Fairbanks Organization at Terre Haute, after all opposition had been beaten, began a systematic contract grab. Within one year the plunder of the City Treasury caused the tax rate to rise, while the enormous assessments on property holders forced hundreds of the citizens to lose their homes. They were unable to pay the tribute exacted by the contractors.

Roberts already had an unsavory reputation in Terre Haute as a contractor. It was he who had paved Maple avenue and Lafayette street and waged a bitter fight against the Board of Works for refusing to accept his inferior material. It was he who broke into the city cisterns to save money in hauling water. It was he who had mulcted the city on intersections and cheap curbing. These contracts, however, amounted to no great sum, but they were indicative of the type of work to be done when the contractor gained more power.

During the Roberts campaign one of the principal cries was poor streets—27 miles must be paved. The Organization's original project of eliminating the leading thoroughfares from the city plans and placing their maintenance on the township was popular with the citizens, as the wealthy township, and not the city, would have to pay for the paving. The Organization did not care who paid so long as it gained its point. When the Pennsylvania Railroad, the largest township taxpayer, fought this scheme on constitutional grounds the contractors were stuck—only about \$100,000 work had been completed. Then Roberts and his friends turned to the city streets as their salvation.

Philadelphia History Repeated

The disclosures made during the investigation by the Catlin Commission in Philadelphia in 1912 were identical with those which have come to light in Terre Haute during the last month.

There were the same contractor politicians. There was the same fraudulent advertising. There were the same supplemental contracts, the same juggling of accounts, the same substitution of material, the same faulty work, the same fake inspection, the same political pull which gave millions to the Philadelphia contractors, but only thousands to the Terre Haute contractors. The courts of Philadelphia condemned the methods of the Philadelphia bosses; three of the leading experts in the country called the work at League Island Park a contracting crime; but the political power held by the contractors kept them in power and has secured additional contracts. In Terre Haute this has not been the case. The citizens in that city have started suits to prevent the completion of the work, and are about to begin proceedings to compel the contractors to refund. The Government's intervention has been the great city savior—it has completely and for all time ended the contractor regime in that Indiana city.

Roberts and his partners on the Board of Works—George Ehrenhardt and Harry Montgomery—saw that all the contracts went to the Cain Construction Company, of Gary, Ind. In Terre Haute four fake subsidiary companies were formed to deceive the citizens. High-sounding names were given to them, but the political sharpers forgot to have them incorporated in Indianapolis.

Now, in the letting of the contracts the city officials—as in the case of Henry Clay in Philadelphia—made all kinds of substitutions and changes, and so tied up the contractors that they would be forced to purchase supplies from firms named by the Organization and be absolutely under their control.

The work began: an \$500,000 contract was let. This was for asphalt, concrete and brick streets. One of the leading engineers in the Middle West recently went over the entire work and presented figures showing that \$100,000 extra profit has gone into somebody's hands—probably \$150,000. In other words, the asphalt contracts, which were let at \$1.34 a yard, could have been fulfilled at 95 cents a yard and then yielded a 15 per cent profit to the contractor. This showing strangely resembles the famous 15 cents to \$1.55 asphalt rate by which the Filbert Paving and Construction Company mulcted this city under Mayor Reysburn.

A trip to League Island Park and a view of the cracked, broken concrete curbs and walks gives an excellent idea of the type of

work done by the Roberts clique of Terre Haute contractors. They used only one-third of the cement required in constructing pavements and curbs; they used the poorest gravel possible; they got in their extra every possible point.

What were these extras? The identical schemes worked by the Philadelphia contractors on their South Philadelphia and Northeastern boulevard contracts were worked by these other political contractors. While the original contract was supposed to be for the citizens to cover everything, it was the start. "Extra excavations" was one of the most flagrant abuses. Along one block alone the contractors managed to secure extra \$3000, while in toto some \$50,000 went into their pockets for this supplementary work. Manhole covers which had to be just brought \$4 instead of the \$11 non-political men received. Expansion joints in concrete streets were set every 25 feet instead of every 50 feet. This saved the contractors \$50 for every city block. Of course, it was necessary to reset all curbs along the line of the new street. This was a supplemental contract.

Streets in the Wilderness

Great stretches of streets were paved through sections which will probably be developed for 25 years. Property, to be sure, was owned in these regions by the politicians. Thus in Terre Haute another notorious boulevard scandal began. As usual the taxpayers had to foot the bill, while the value of the politicians' property was enhanced tremendously. This was exactly the case in this city when David Martin, Peter E. Costello and many of the Councilmen bought up property along the boulevard. Only in Philadelphia they sold most of the holdings to the city. In Terre Haute they were contented to have the improvements made without pay. This was usually accomplished by changing the boundary of the city.

Wherever new streets were to be laid, sewers must be placed—more contracts. Through cornfields these streets were paved by the city authorities forcing the property holders to pay for the lateral sewers. It was no difference as to the size of the lateral sewer must be constructed every yard. Under all other contractors the cost \$6 to \$9, but under the Cain-Roberts men it was \$18 to \$22. Another extra \$15 was charged each property holder when the sewer was tapped.

In the brick streets some clever trick was worked. Roberts owed a certain company a bill of \$13,000 on old contracts. This company received all the contracts for the new streets. Of course, the price was more than ever charged before. Evidence is in hand to show that the brick company contributed some \$5000 to defend Roberts during his trial.

As the contract was based on the material used, the contractors saw to it that as much concrete as possible got into the work. A man from whom the concrete was purchased was a ward lieutenant and a faithful Roberts worker. Sand costs 85 cents a cubic yard. Cement costs \$10.50 a cubic yard. The usual formula for binder in brick streets is one bag of cement to one bag of sand. The contractors used pure cement, thus increasing the cost 100 per cent.

The League Island of Terre Haute

The political contractors of Terre Haute did exactly what the contractors did at League Island—used river gravel. Thus they saved tens of thousands of dollars. The experts who examined the work at League Island for Director Cooke showed it was inferior gravel that spoiled it. In Terre Haute the Wabash River gravel was used. This is how it was done:

With extras, some of the asphalt contracts prices soared to \$2.25 a yard. Extra curbing, paving and sewers, the assessment for improvements to the property holders went into thousands of dollars. People whose properties were heavily mortgaged were ruined—they could not pay the improvements. Hundreds lost their homes. Thus the contractor bosses of Terre Haute slowly tied the noose about the heads which was eventually to strangle them.

A NATION'S BEST INVESTMENT

Education is a nation's best investment. It is in and through the educational system that a nation finds and expresses its ideal. —Charles L.